

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 13 - 21 are currently pending in this application, wherein claim 13 is being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

Other Amendments

As set forth in the previous response, the specification was amended to correct various formal errors, and thus stands for consideration. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this supplemental response.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hohle (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,762).

The present invention as set forth in claim 13 is directed to a smart card system that comprises a smart card issuance/management system configured to perform issuance and management of a smart card; and a smart card service providing/managing system configured to perform issuance and management of an application loaded on the smart card. The smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system are operatively connected to each other through a network such that information exchange is achieved by transmitting and receiving electronic messages through the network. Each of the electronic messages is uniquely identified using a message ID, and data of the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system is stored using the message ID as a key. The information exchange between the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system includes at the time of initial issuance of the smart card, the smart card issuance/management system sending an application loading permission which permits the smart card service providing/managing system to load an application, at the time of the initial issuance of the smart card, the smart card service providing/managing system sends the application loading permission and the application and loads the application in the smart card, and at the time of the reissuance of the smart card, the smart card service providing/managing system receives

the card attribute data from the smart card, sends the card attribute information and an application ID of the application to the smart card issuance/management system, the smart card issuance/management system searches the message ID of the application loading permission using the sent card attribute information, which identifies the smart card and sends the message ID of the application loading permission to the smart card service providing/managing system, and the smart card service providing/managing system searches an examination result at the time of initial loading application using the message ID as the key.

According to claim 16, the present invention is directed to a smart card issuance/management system configured to perform issuance and management of a smart card and configured to connect to a smart card service providing/managing system through a network, wherein information exchange is achieved by transmitting and receiving electronic messages through the network. Each of the electronic messages is uniquely identified using a message ID. Data of the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system is stored using the message ID as a key. At the time of initial issuance of the smart card, the smart card issuance/management system sends an application loading permission which permits the smart card service providing/managing system to load an application; and at the time of reissuance of the smart card, the smart card issuance/management system searches a message ID of the application loading permission using card attribute data, which identifies the smart card, as a key, and sends the message ID of the application loading permission.

Further, according to claim 19, the present invention is directed to a smart card service providing/managing system configured to perform issuance and management of a smart card and configured to connected to an IC card service issuance/management system configured to perform issuance and management an application loaded on the smart card, through the network, wherein information exchange is achieved by transmitting and receiving electronic messages through the network. Each of the electric messages is uniquely identified using a message ID. The data of the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system is stored using the message ID as a key. At the time of initial issuance of the smart card, the smart card service providing/managing system receives an application loading permission from the smart card issuance/management system, which permits the smart card service providing/managing system to load an application, and loads the application to the smart card; and at the time of reissuance of the smart card, the service providing/managing system receives the card attribute data from the smart card which identifies the smart card, sends the card attribute data and an application ID of the application, receives the message ID of the application loading permission, and searches an examination result at the time of initial loading application using the message ID as the key.

Support for the recitation of the claims and claim amendments outlined above may be found on page 4, line 7 to page, 5 line 8, page 31, line 12 - page 36, line 11, and Fig. 8 (Claims 13, 16 and 19); page 12, line 11 - 13 (Claims 14, 17 and 20); and page 33, line 16 - 17 (Claims 15, 18, and 21).

Among its main features, with respect to Fig. 8 of the present application, the present invention keeps information accompanying the message ID corresponding to the information for each message when electric messages are exchanged between a service provider 121 and an issuer 122. For this exchanging the electric messages, examples of data forms (data tables) are shown in Figs. 16 and 17 of the present application. When an application reloading is required, only "the message ID" of application loading permission sent when the initial issuer is sent from the Issuer to the Service provider (step 807). The service provider can reload onto the smart card an application after confirming the message corresponding to the message ID on the service provider side.

The present invention has a uniquely simple procedure, in that (1) only the message ID is sent from an issuer to a service provider, which reduces the amount of data which must be sent, and (2) in the issuer side, the issuer can re-use the information of an examination result at the time on initial loading an application, which is a more simple procedure of re-examination.

In contrast to the present invention, the cited reference to Hohle, in col. 3, lines 57-67 shows a "personalization system [that] issues a smart card using an initialization data, which includes account number, a serial number, etc." Hohle's account number is only a user's account number and is quite different from the message ID of the present invention. The user's account number of Hohle can only be used to distinguish each user, but cannot recognize the message of permission for loading the application. Moreover, a serial number is a number which recognizes a smart card which is issued, and it is not a message ID as in the present invention which recognizes a message of permission for loading the application into a specific card.

Regarding a specific example pointed out by the Examiner, the CODUS on col. 3, lines 57-67 of Hohle is a card object data update system (col. 3, line 32). Hohle teaches only that it is connected to a personalization system. Therefore, it again fails to show a message ID as in the present invention which recognizes a message of permission for loading the application into a specific card.

Further, the Examiner pointed out that Hohle, in col. 9, line 58, shows an issuer and a service provider, and a database 910 that offers an application (See col. 3, lines 61-64). However, Hohle also does not teach that when offering, the service provider receives a message of permission for loading the application and the message of permission includes the message ID.

Hohle does not disclose, teach or suggest any type of data or element even remotely similar to the message ID of the present invention that is used when exchanging the application loading permission.

In addition, Hohle especially does not disclose, teach or suggest any process or method wherein, at the time of the reissuance of the smart card, the smart card service providing/managing system receives the card attribute data from the smart card, sends the card attribute information and an application ID of the application to the smart card issuance/management system, the smart card issuance/management system searches the message ID of the application loading permission using the sent card attribute information, which identifies the smart card and sends the message ID of the application loading permission to the smart card service providing/managing system, and the smart card service providing/managing system searches an examination result at the time of initial loading application using the message ID as the key.

Therefore, Hohle cannot anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the present invention as now claimed. In particular, Hohle does not disclose, teach or suggest the characteristics of the invention as now recited in at least claim 13 wherein, at the time of reissuance of the smart card, the service providing/managing system receives the card attribute data from the smart card which identifies the smart card, sends the card attribute data and an application ID of the application, receives the message ID of the application loading permission, and searches an examination result at the time of initial loading application using the message ID as the key.

Also, Hohle does not disclose, teach or suggest the characteristics of the invention as now recited in claim 16 wherein "the data of the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system is stored using the message ID as a key" and "the smart card issuance/management system sends the message ID of the application loading permission."

Further, Hohle does not disclose, teach or suggest the characteristics of the invention as now recited in claim 19 wherein, "the data of the smart card issuance/management system and the smart card service providing/managing system is stored using the message ID as a key" and "the smart card service providing/managing system searches an examination result at the time of initial loading application using the message id as a key."

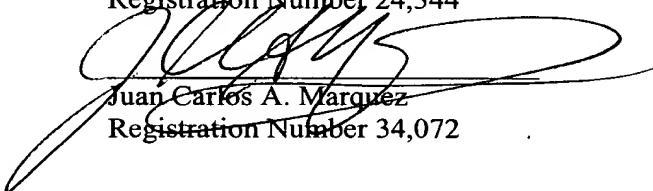
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art upon which the rejection in the Office Action relies. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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